

New Mexico / Southwestern Reading Resources

A limited selection of suggestions and personal favorites from New Mexico educators and librarians.

Topic	Elementary		
New Mexico History	Rising Moon Editors	<i>New Mexico A to Z</i>	The fascinating and beautiful features and creatures of New Mexico come alive in this brilliantly fun book. From the Carlsbad Caverns and dark-eyed junco to the Rio Grande and tree-climbing urosaurus, a thorough appendix offers information so interesting it will make you want to explore New Mexico!
Southwestern Storytelling	Sáenz, Benjamin Alire	<i>The Dog Who Loved Tortillas: La perrita que le encantaban las tortillas</i>	Diego and his sister Gabriela argue over their new dog Sofie. But it's only when Sofie gets really sick that they find out who their tortilla-loving pup really belongs to.
Native American	Aliko	<i>Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians</i>	Story of how corn was discovered and used by Native American farmers.
Native American	Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>Roadrunner's Dance</i>	Creation stories tell us how things began. The author mused, "What if the roadrunner was created by a committee of animals?" Each contributed his idea of what would make the new bird unique. This beautifully illustrated book is appropriate for upper elementary as well.
Spanish Colonial	Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>The Santero's Miracle</i>	Bilingual story about a master santero and his grandson.
Southwestern Storytelling		<i>How Hollyhocks Came to New Mexico</i>	How Hollyhocks Came to New Mexico is a fanciful folk tale that helps explain the beautiful flowers that can be seen in all parts of the Southwest in the summer and fall. Escaping Herod's wrath, Sueño, a near-sighted angel, takes the Holy Family to New Mexico by mistake. Acclaimed author and teacher Rudolfo Anaya blends history in this tale that shows how different cultures can work together peacefully and respect the land we all need.
Spanish Colonial	Anaya, Rudolfo and Amy Córdova	<i>The Farolitos of Christmas: With "Season of Renewal"</i>	Anaya's heartwarming story of a beloved holiday tradition, of a promise, and of homecoming on Christmas Eve
Native American	Baylor, Byrd	<i>When Clay Sings</i>	Designs on broken pottery pieces recount the daily life and customs of prehistoric southwestern Indian tribes. Written in an almost poetic style, it is also appropriate for middle school students.
Native American	Bishop, Amanda, and Bobbie Kalman	<i>Life in a Pueblo</i>	Describes Pueblo life before contact with Europeans; a good reference book for grades 4-6.
Native American	Blood, Charles L and Martin Link	<i>The Goat in the Rug</i>	A goat describes how she and her Navajo friend make a rug. Grades 4-8.
Native American	Browne, Vee	<i>Monster Slayer</i>	A terrible monster is plaguing the Anasazi villages of the Southwest, and villagers are afraid to plant their corn. The Hero Twins respond to their cries and take on the monsters. This story is partially retelling the Navajo version of the traditional story, and is illustrated by Navajo artist Bajé Whitethorn.

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Native American	Browne, Vee	<i>Monster Birds</i>	This traditional Navajo story, illustrated beautifully by Navajo artist Baje Whitethorn, is a continuation of the story of Monster Slayer. The two companion books bring to life parts of the Navajo creation story.
Native American	Clark, Ann Nolan	<i>Young Hunter of Picuris</i>	This book was one of several works created in the 1940's by the BIA to encourage literacy and represent the cultures of the pueblo people in New Mexico. This story was illustrated by Ma-Pe-Wi, or Velino Herrera, who was the artist that recreated the images in the Painted Kiva at Coronado Historic Site.
Native American	Clark, Ann Nolan	<i>Little Boy With Three Names</i>	This book was one of several works created in the 1940's by the BIA to encourage literacy and represent the cultures of the pueblo people in New Mexico. These traditional tales are illustrated by foremost Native American artists of the time.
Native American	Clark, Ann Nolan	<i>In My Mother's House</i>	This collection of poems, written by the Tewa children, was illustrated by Velino Herrera, the painter who recreated the images in the Coronado Historic Site painted kiva. The poems tell about the traditional lives of the pueblo people.
Native American	Cunningham, Kevin, and Peter Benoit	<i>The Pueblo</i>	More than 70 Pueblo villages existed in North America when the Spanish first arrived. This book, published by Scholastic, tells the stories of how and why they were constructed and tells about the society before and after the Pueblo Revolt. Very child friendly, written in an interesting format.
Santa Fe Trail	Dean, Arlan.	<i>The Santa Fe Trail: From Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico (Famous American Trails)</i>	Discusses the history and purpose of the Santa Fe Trail, and describes daily life on this important commercial route to the Southwestern United States.
Native American	Gallager, Derek	<i>Ancient Dwellings of the Southwest (pop-up book)</i>	People have lived in the Southwest for thousands of years. They formed communities, constructed buildings, and built a vibrant culture that continues to thrive. This book shows you their homes, past and present, and invites you to learn about their culture.
Native American	Garcia, Emmet "Shkeme"	<i>Coyote and the Sky: How the Sun, Moon, and Stars Began</i>	Coyote and the Sky is a Tamaya Pueblo creation story about the Animal People's journey to the Fourth World.
Spanish Colonial	Gazzo, Sandra E.	<i>Miguel and the Santero</i>	Published by New Mexico Magazine.
Native American	Goble, Paul	<i>The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses</i>	Beautiful story, illustrated by the author, that tells the story of young Native American woman who went to live among the Horse People, showing the relationship between horses and Native Americans in the plains tribes.
Native American	Goble, Paul	<i>Dream Wolf</i>	Stories of wolves, and other animals, who helped people when they were lost, wounded, or in danger.

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Spanish Colonial	Hayes, Joe	<i>Everyone Knows Gato Pinto: More Tales from Spanish New Mexico</i>	This book brings to life ten charming cuentos (stories or tales). The author's unique interpretations of classic stories continues to preserve and honor the rich traditions of Northern New Mexico.
Southwestern Storytelling	Hillerman, Tony	<i>Buster Mesquite's Cowboy Band</i>	Buster Mesquite's Cowboy Band give a quirky southwestern retelling of a classic children's tale, with a much more satisfactory ending. Delightful illustrations by Navajo artist Ernest Franklin, who has been illustrating Tony Hillerman's Navajo policemen for many years. Visual puns and hidden jokes make Franklin's drawings a delight to revisit over and over, always with a fresh sense of discovery. Humor is a large part of Native American life and traditional culture
Southwestern Storytelling	Hodgson, Mona	<i>Bedtime in the Southwest</i>	Critters indigenous to the region populate the illustrations that accompany simple verses posed in the form of questions. For example, does a baby bird "beg for juice from her favorite flower?" or a rabbit "hop on the bed and bounce for an hour?"
Native American	Kamma, Anne	<i>If You Lived With the Hopi</i>	This beautifully formatted and illustrated Scholastic book tells the story of the Hopi people of Arizona in a very child-friendly and informative way. Very thorough.
Native American	Kennard, Edward A.	<i>Field Mouse Goes to War</i>	This book was one of several works created in the 1940's by the BIA to encourage literacy and represent the cultures of the pueblo people in New Mexico.
Southwestern Storytelling	Kimmel, Eric A.	<i>The Three Little Tamales</i>	While the three little tamales cool off on a windowsill, a tortilla rolls by. "You'll be eaten. You'd better run!" he tells them. And so the tamales jump out the window. The first runs to the prairie and builds a house of sagebrush. The second runs to a cornfield and builds a house of cornstalks. The third runs to the desert and builds a house of cactus. Then who should come along but Señor Lobo, the Big Bad Wolf, who plans to blow their houses down!
Southwestern Storytelling	Kimmel, Eric A.	<i>Cactus Soup</i>	When a group of hungry soldiers ride into San Miguel, the townspeople don't want to share their food. They hide their tortillas, tamales, beans, and flour and put on torn clothes to look poor. But the Capitán is not fooled. He asks for a cactus thorn to make some cactus soup, and before long he has tricked the townspeople into giving him salt and chilies, vegetables, and a chicken as well!
First Contact	Little, Kimberly Griffiths	<i>The Last Snake Runner</i>	Kendall, last member of the Snake Clan, slips back in time 400 years to the era when the Spanish began to occupy the Southwest. Will he survive and make it back? Will he be the last Snake Runner, as he was told?
Native American	Lopez, Barry	<i>Crow and Weasel</i>	This fiction story is set in mythological time when animals and men spoke to one another, and is the tale of two young men who set out on horseback to travel and explore the world. It tells the stories of their adventures. For upper elementary and middle school readers.
Southwestern Storytelling	Lowell, Susan	<i>The Three Little Javelinas</i>	Everyone knows the story of the three little pigs, but now you're going to meet the three little javelinas (pronounced ha-ve-LEE-nas)-loveable, wild, southwestern cousins of pigs. Living in homes built out of tumbleweeds and saguaro ribs (from the fallen giant cacti), the first two javelinas are soon running from the hungry coyote, who had hoped to eat them with red chile sauce. And where do they go for shelter? Why, to their wise sister's house, made strong with adobe bricks.

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Southwestern Storytelling	Lowell, Susan	<i>The Tortoise and the Jackrabbit</i>	The Tortoise and the Hare with a southwestern flair. Tortoise, living comfortably in her home on Slow Lane, awakens one morning feeling good and challenges cocky Jackrabbit to a race. Patiently bumping her way through the desert landscape, Tortoise heads for the finish line as Jackrabbit cheerfully skips—and sleeps. Roadrunner, Tarantula, Gila Monster and even a Javelina or three cheer them on. Irresistible fun for the young and old alike.
Native American	Malotki, Ekkehard	<i>The Magic Hummingbird: a Hopi Folktale</i>	In this authentic Hopi folktale, two young children are left behind in a drought-stricken Hopi village, and a sunflower stalk fashioned into the shape of a hummingbird magically springs to life to save them. Narrated by Michael Lomatuway'ma and illustrated by Michael Lacapa.
Southwestern Storytelling	Marsh, T.J., and Jennifer Ward	<i>Way Out in the Desert</i>	This toe-tapping text will have you singing along with the lovable creatures of the desert in no time! Filled with vibrant illustrations of many of the charming plants and animals that call the Sonoran Desert home, Way Out in the Desert is a wonderful teaching tool that takes you on a trip down memory lane. If you remember singing Over in the Meadow as a child, now you can give your children their own memories of this timeless tune. So take a child on a trip where Way out in the desert having fun in the sun lived a mother horned toad and her little toady one.
Native American	Max, Jill (editor)	<i>Spider Spins a Story</i>	The spider is a common character in Native American oral tradition. These fourteen stories show Spider as a mentor, trickster, ally, miracle worker, and teacher. It is beautifully illustrated by Native American artists and was endorsed by tribal authorities.
Native American	McDermott, Gerald	<i>Arrow to the Sun</i>	In this beautifully illustrated Caldecott award winning story, a Pueblo boy, who is the son of the Sun, must make a journey to meet his father, and then prove himself worthy before he is acknowledged and sent back to lead his people.
Native American	McDermott, Gerald	<i>Coyote: A Trickster Tale from the American Southwest</i>	Coyote finds trouble wherever he travels! Grades K-3
New Mexico History	Mike, Jan M.	<i>New Mexico Alphabet: Land of Enchantment,</i>	Journey through the Land of Enchantment. Climb the highest peak in the state where tiny Krumbholl thrive, visit a museum filled with space ships, or take a look at an Indian pueblo.
Wild West	Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux	<i>Bad News for Outlaws</i>	Sitting tall in the saddle, with a wide-brimmed black hat and twin Colt pistols on his belt, Bass Reeves seemed bigger than life. Outlaws feared him. Law-abiding citizens respected him. As a peace officer, he was cunning and fearless. When a lawbreaker heard Bass Reeves had his warrant, he knew it was the end of the trail, because Bass always got his man, dead or alive. He achieved all this in spite of whites who didn't like the notion of a black lawman. Born into slavery in 1838, Bass had a hard and violent life, but he also had a strong sense of right and wrong that others admired.
Native American	Noble, David Grant	<i>Ancient Indians of the Southwest</i>	This informative non-fiction book is a great resource for upper elementary or middle school students, answering a hundred basic questions about the people who lived in the Southwestern United States.
Spanish Colonial	Ortega, Cristina	<i>The Key to Grandpa's House</i>	This story represents life on a northern New Mexico plaza while highlighting the respect, friendship, trust, commitment, and love found in the community.

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Spanish Colonial	Ortega, Cristina	<i>Los Ojos del Tejedor: The Eyes of the Weaver</i>	This non-fiction book is about the author as a child when she learned to weave from her grandfather. The Ortegas have been weaving in Chimayo (near Santa Fe) for more than eight generations.
Southwestern Storytelling	Paul, Ann Whitford	<i>Fiesta Fiasco</i>	There is another desert party in the works in this spicy companion book to <i>Manana, Iguana</i> . This time it is Snake's birthday, and Iguana, Tortoise, and Rabbit are shopping for birthday gifts to bring to his fiesta. But what presents should they buy for Snake? In a sneaky twist, Rabbit convinces them to buy gifts that aren't for Snake at all but for him!
Southwestern Storytelling	Reynolds, Aaron	<i>Chicks and Salsa</i>	What happens at Nuthatcher Farm when the chickens get tired of the same old chicken feed? The rooster hatches a plan! With a pinch of genius, a dash of resourcefulness, and a little pilfering from the farmer's garden, the chickens whip up a scrumptious snack of chips and salsa. When the rest of the barnyard gets a whiff of the spicy smells and want to join in, it can mean only one thing . . . FIESTA! But when the big day arrives, all their spicy southwestern supplies are gone!
Native American	Rodanas, Kristina	<i>Dragonfly's Tale</i>	Based on an ancient Zuni story about the importance of respecting nature and kindness to others. This book has incredible illustrations. Ages 5 and up. Could use this in middle school to illustrate the book by Tony Hillerman of the same title.
Southwestern Storytelling	Rubin, Adam	<i>Dragons Love Tacos</i>	Dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos, and teeny tiny tacos. So if you want to lure a bunch of dragons to your party, you should definitely serve tacos. Buckets and buckets of tacos. Unfortunately, where there are tacos, there is also salsa. And if a dragon accidentally eats spicy salsa...oh, boy. You're in red-hot trouble.
Southwestern Storytelling	Squires, Janet	<i>The Gingerbread Cowboy</i>	"Giddyup, giddyup as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!" The Gingerbread Cowboy can run from the rancher, he can dash past the javelinas, and he can giddyup right by the cattle grazing on the mesa. But what happens when he meets a coyote sleeping in the sun?
Southwestern Storytelling	Storad, Conrad J	<i>Lizards for Lunch: A Roadrunner's Tale</i>	Introduces facts about roadrunners in rhythmic verse, ages 4 and up.
Native American	Taylor, Harriet Peck	<i>Coyote Places the Stars</i>	This beautifully illustrated children's book is a retelling of a Wasco Indian story, based on two printed versions of the legend.
New Mexico History	Twinem, Neecy	<i>E is for Enchantment,</i>	A New Mexico Alphabet gives a beautifully illustrated, guided A-Z tour through the state. Beginning readers will enjoy the simple rhymes while older children discover facts about each topic letter in the sidebar expository.
Native American	Vallo, Lawrence Jonathan	<i>Tales of a Pueblo Boy</i>	The author, a Native American author from Jemez and Acoma Pueblos, has also illustrated this story of what it was like to grow up in an Indian Pueblo in the first part of the twentieth century. The central character, Rabbit, learns from his grandfather and other adults all the things he needs to know to become an adult.
Southwestern Storytelling	Ward, Jennifer	<i>There Was A Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea</i>	There was a coyote who swallowed a flea, Plucked from his knee, that tickly flea. Yippee-o-Ki-Yee! Skinny ol' Coyote delights readers of all ages as he swallows his way through this delicious southwestern-flavored retelling of a well-loved rhyme. As Coyote gets bigger, the story gets zanier as a bird, a bull, and even an entire cactus end up as dinner. It's pure fun for everyone—even that little flea. Call him silly to swallow a chile! Yippee-o-Ki-Yee!

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Native American	Warren, Scott	<i>Cities in the sand: The Ancient Civilizations of the Southwest</i>	This nonfiction book explores the ancient people of the Southwest and how they lived and made their homes.
Native American	Whitethorn, Baje	<i>Sunpainters: Eclipse of the Navajo Sun</i>	Written and illustrated by Baje Whitethorn, this story tells the tale of Navajo people and how they responded to a total solar eclipse, or the death of the sun.
Topic	Middle School		
New Mexico History	Gibson, Karen Bush	<i>Native American History for Kids</i>	This book captures the early history of Native Americans. Readers will learn about Indian culture through hands-on activities. Native American history for Kids also includes profiles of famous Native Americans and their many contributions, from early leaders to superstar athlete Jim Thorpe, dancer Marcia Tallchief, astronaut John Harrington, author Sherman Alexie, actor Wes Studi, and more.
New Mexico History	Meyer, Caroline	<i>Rio Grande Stories</i>	When they are asked to raise money for the school, seventh grade class at Rio Grande Middle School decides to write and sell a book. Each contributes a story about their heritage that is personal and important. Filled with New Mexico stories, traditions, and recipes, the book is a big success. Best of all, the kids learn something about themselves and one another.
New Mexico History	Simmons, Marc	<i>New Mexico: An Interpretive History</i>	For all who love New Mexico, and for those who aspire to know the state, this book is a graceful and compelling summary of what has made the Land of Enchantment distinctive.
WWII	Klages, Ellen	<i>The Green Glass Sea</i>	It's 1943, and eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is en route to New Mexico to live with her mathematician father. Soon she arrives at a town that, officially, doesn't exist. It is called Los Alamos, and it is abuzz with activity, as scientists and mathematicians from all over America and Europe work on the biggest secret of all--"the gadget." None of them--not J. Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Manhattan Project; not the mathematicians and scientists; and least of all, Dewey--know how much "the gadget" is about to change their lives
WWII	Klages, Ellen	<i>White Sands, Red Menace</i>	It is 1946. World War II is over, ended by the atomic bomb that Dewey Kerrigan's and Suze Gordon's scientist parents helped build. Dewey's been living with the Gordons since before the war's end, before her father died, moving south with them to Alamogordo, New Mexico. At the White Sands Missile Range, Phil Gordon is working on rockets that will someday go to the moon; at home, Terry Gordon is part of the scientists' movement against the Bomb.
WWII	Aasent, Nathan	<i>Navajo Code Talkers</i>	On the Pacific front during World War II, strange messages were picked up by American and Japanese forces on land and at sea. The messages were totally unintelligible to everyone except a small select group within the Marine Corps: the Navajo code talkers--a group of Navajos communicating in a code based on the Navajo language. This code, the first unbreakable one in U.S. history, was a key reason that the Allies were able to win in the Pacific.

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WWII	Bruchac, Joseph	<i>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II</i>	Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years.
Immigration	Hobbs, Will	<i>Crossing the Wire</i>	When falling crop prices threaten his family with starvation, fifteen-year-old Victor Flores heads north in an attempt to "cross the wire" from Mexico into the United States so he can find work and send money home. But with no coyote money to pay the smugglers who sneak illegal workers across the border, Victor must struggle to survive as he jumps trains, stows away on trucks, and hikes grueling miles through the Arizona desert.
Immigration	Ryan, Pam Muñoz	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.
Spanish Colonial	Lamadrid, Enrique	<i>Amadito and the Hero Children</i>	This thoughtful bilingual book introduces young readers to the two most deadly epidemics to strike the Southwest--smallpox in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and influenza during World War I. In a beautifully illustrated narrative, the story reveals that with tragedy comes heroism, as demonstrated by the children who bravely transported the smallpox vaccine from Mexico's interior to New Mexico in 1805.
Lincoln County War	Woog, Adam	<i>Billy the Kid</i>	Billy the Kid is one of the most famous outlaws ever to come out of the Old West, an expert at rustling, thieving, shooting, and breaking out of jails. Over the years, he has been the subject of hundreds of books, articles, movies, and more. Still, tantalizingly little is known about the Kid, and many questions remain.
Camino Real	Jackson, Hal F. and Marc Simmons.	<i>Following the Royal Road: A Guide to the Historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro</i>	The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Royal Road of the Interior Land) is North America's oldest and longest road. Juan de Oñate extended the Camino to New Mexico in 1598, making it 1,500 miles long. Here, Hal Jackson brings to life this important route connecting Mexico City with Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Spanish Exploration	Simmons, Marc	<i>Coronado's Land: Essays on Daily Life in Colonial New Mexico</i>	The twenty-five essays collected here re-create everyday activities of the Hispanic people of colonial northern New Mexico. Simmons's essays permit us to imagine what people long ago thought and felt, which is a considerable accomplishment.
Camino Real	Yoder, Walter D	<i>The Camino Real (the King's Road) Activity Book: Spanish Settlers in the Southwest</i>	The Camino Real was important in the early development and settlement of the American Southwest. This book offers over 40 pages of comprehensive activities detailing the long and scenic trade route between the Western Territories and old Mexico.

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Camino Real	Loeffler, Jack	<i>Portrait in Sound of an Ancient Road : Stories and Songs of el Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (CD)</i>	Interviews with Native Americans, historians, archaeologists, artists and community scholars --la gente whose lives are closely aligned with the Camino Real -- contributed to this project.
Santa Fe Trail	Yoder, Walter D	<i>The Santa Fe Trail Activity Book</i>	The Santa Fe Trail was important in the early development and settlement of the American Southwest. This book offers over 40 pages of comprehensive activities detailing the long and scenic trade route between the Western Territories and the American Mid-west.
WWII	Detedale, Jennifer	<i>The Long Walk: The Forced Navajo Exile</i>	Written by Dine author and Northern Arizona University professor Jennifer Denetdale, this book provides substantive information about the Dine, grounding the reader in Dine life and culture prior to encounters with those responsible for their forced relocation.
WWII	Litchman, Kristin Embry	<i>Secrets! of a Los Alamos Kid</i>	A work of historical fiction for older elementary school students based on the author's experiences as a child in Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project.
WWII	Reeder, Carolyn	<i>The Secret Project Notebook</i>	A historical fiction for older elementary school and middle school students, this is the story of a teenager who arrives in Los Alamos and tries to uncover the secrets of the Manhattan Project while making friends, outwitting bullies, and getting into trouble with security.
Native American	Baylor, Byrd	<i>When Clay Sings</i>	This poetic picture book is a great introduction or enrichment to a unit on the lives of Pueblo people in the Southwest. Through looking at pieces of pottery, the author imagines what life must have been like for children in the pueblo world long ago.
First Contact	Baker, Betty	<i>Walk the World's Rim</i>	A 14-year old Indian joins Cabeza de Vaca's 16th-century expedition through the Southwest. A vivid portrait of Mexican life and the harsh conditions of a primitive Indian tribe.
Mexican Colonial	Golden, Renny	<i>Blood Desert: Witnesses 1820-1880</i>	In a rich combination of fictional first-person monologues and third person poetic epic narratives, the author gives voices o the great spirits of the age. Great source of enrichment which spans through this era as it tells the story of nuns, soldiers, chiefs, and religious leaders who led their people in the violent times of our history. Appropriate for high school or middle school students.
Southwestern Storytelling	Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>My Land Sings: Stories from the Río Grande</i>	In stories both original and passed down, this bestselling author incorporates powerful themes of family, faith, and choosing the right path in life. In "Lupe and la Llorona," a 7th grader searches for the legendary Llorona; in "The Shepard Who Knew the Language of Animals," a shepherd named Abel saves a snake and gains the ability to understand the language of animals; In "Dulcinea," a 15-year-old dances with the Devil. Other tales feature coyotes, ravens, a woodcutter who tries to cheat death, the Virgin Mary, a golden carp, and a young Latino who seeks immortality.
Southwestern Storytelling	Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>La Llorona: The Crying Woman</i>	La Llorona, the Crying Woman, is the legendary creature who haunts rivers, lakes, and lonely roads. Said to seek out children who disobey their parents, she has become a "boogeyman," but there are other lessons her tragic history can demonstrate for children.
Southwestern Storytelling	Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>Serafina's Stories</i>	Like Scheherezade, who ensured her survival by telling her royal husband stories, the title character in Rudolfo Anaya's creative retelling of <i>The Arabian Nights</i> must entertain the recently widowed governor with legends of Nueva Mexicana, or she and her fellow captives will die.

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Southwestern Storytelling	Hayes, Joe	<i>The Day It Snowed Tortillas / El día que nevó tortilla: Folk Tales</i>	Storytellers have been telling these stories in the villages of New Mexico since the Spanish first came to the New World over four hundred years ago, but Joe always adds his own nuances for modern audiences. The tales are full of magic and fun. In the title story, for instance, a very clever woman saves her silly husband from a band of robbers. She makes the old man believe it snowed tortillas during the night!
Spanish Exploration	Udall, Stewart	<i>In Coronado's Footsteps</i>	In this reprinting of an article originally printed in Arizona Highways, the author takes the reader on a journey that follows the entrada of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado into the land of Nueva Espana. Appropriate for middle or high school readers.
Native American	Baylor, Byrd	<i>Before You Came This Way</i>	This poetic picture book explores Native American petroglyphs and rock art, finding images that children can relate to and imagine how life for those children long ago was similar to those. Appropriate for upper elementary as well as middle school students.
New Mexico History	Kutz, Jack	<i>Mysteries & Miracles of New Mexico: Guide Book to the Genuinely Bizarre in the Land of Enchantment</i>	This self-proclaimed "guide book to the genuinely bizarre in the Land of Enchantment" provides a good look at some of the "High Strange" phenomena in New Mexico. Part history text, part ghost story, part AAA guide, Jack Kutz's entertaining book covers 17 unexplained stories from around the state. He provides a detailed analysis of the Mystery Stone, the intriguing account of a lost gold mine in southwestern New Mexico and a brief accounting of police officer Lonnie Zamora's 1964 encounter with a flying saucer pit stop in Socorro. Most useful is a detailed description at the end of every chapter telling how to reach the strange sites
New Mexico History	Kutz, Jack	<i>More Mysteries & Miracles of New Mexico: Guide Book to the Genuinely Bizarre in the Land of Enchantment</i>	This self-proclaimed "guide book to the genuinely bizarre in the Land of Enchantment" provides a good look at some of the "High Strange" phenomena in New Mexico. This is a continuation of the first book and it takes on such mysteries as Pottery Mound, who killed Pat Garrett, the Roswell incident, and much more! Entertaining reading about real places and even directions to the sites.
Native American	Hillerman, Tony	<i>The Boy Who Made Dragonfly</i>	Recorded almost a century ago, this Zuni myth was intended to teach both morality and history of the people. The hero is a little boy who helps to save his people from disaster during a drought.
Topic	High School		
New Mexico History	Melzer, Richard and Robert J. Torrez	<i>A History of New Mexico Since Statehood</i>	The authors delineate New Mexico's role in the shaping of the United States by carefully analyzing how the rich histories of the many cultures of the region affected and in turn were affected by influxes of newcomers seeking health benefits, minerals, farms, relaxation, and new beginnings.
New Mexico History	Melzer, Richard	<i>New Mexico: Celebrating the Land of Enchantment</i>	Filled with images that document the past hundred years, New Mexico is a photographic delight accompanied by brief insightful essays that leave the reader in no doubt of a history that is both imposing and exciting in its scope.

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New Mexico History	Etulain, Richard W	<i>New Mexican Lives: Profiles and Historical Stories</i>	Profiles of fourteen notable, complex characters provide a unique view into New Mexico's development from prehistoric times to the present.
New Mexico History	Usner, Donald J	<i>New Mexico Route 66 on Tour: Legendary Architecture from Glenrio to Gallup</i>	This travel narrative uses architecture as a means to explore the cultural and historical context of Route 66 in New Mexico.
New Mexico History	Bartlett, Lee, V.B. Price, and Dianne Edenfield Edwards, editors	<i>In Company : An Anthology of New Mexico Poets After 1960</i>	Representing a variety of styles and personalities, this collection brings together three generations of distinguished poets associated with New Mexico, including Witter Bynner, Jay Wright, Charles Tomlinson, Robert Creeley, Nathaniel Tarn, Simon Ortiz and Joy Harjo.
New Mexico History	Gill, Donald A	<i>Stories Behind the Street Names of Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Taos,</i>	Ten years before the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock, settlers were already moving into the American Southwest, building houses, planning towns, and laying out streets. The names of the streets of Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Taos reflect a long history of contrasting cultures: Spanish, Anglo, and Native American.
New Mexico History	Lowe, Sam	<i>New Mexico Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff</i>	Whether you're a born-and-raised New Mexican, a recent transplant, or just passing through, New Mexico Curiosities will have you laughing out loud as it introduces you to the most fascinating characters in the Spanish State, and takes you places you never could have imagined -- some of them right around the corner!
New Mexico History	Sondermon, Joe	<i>Route 66 in New Mexico</i>	Travelers knew they had arrived in the great Southwest when they entered New Mexico -- the towns along Route 66 were ablaze in neon, and they lured travelers with Western themes, Pueblo Revival architecture, and Native American trading posts. The stories behind the landmarks are here, as well as the stories behind establishments that are lost forever or slowly crumbling to dust among the tumbleweeds..
New Mexico History	Stone, William A	<i>New Mexico Then & Now</i>	Using the principal of repeat photography--finding an old picture of a location and rephotographing the same spot -- this author has created a photographic, geographic, and to a degree social history of the state called the Land of Enchantment.
New Mexico History	Sutter, L.M.	<i>New Mexico Baseball : Miners, Outlaws, Indians, and Isotopes, 1880 to the Present,</i>	This work traces the history of New Mexican baseball to the days of Billy the Kid and Geronimo. The author describes an almost feudal society in those early years of the Wild West, where soldiers, miners, criminals, homesteaders, farmers, and Native Americans populated a land, but where baseball existed and was played by a strange amalgamation of Americans.
First Contact	Herrick, Dennis	<i>Winter of the Metal People</i>	The story of the Tiguex War is told in this historical novel about the encounter between the Pueblo people of the middle Rio Grande Valley with the Spanish soldiers and allied Mexican Indians under the command of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado.

New Mexico / Southwestern Reading Resources

WWII	Silko, Leslie Marmon	<i>Ceremony</i>	Silko is an accomplished writer who has been the recipient of MacArthur Foundation Grants and a lifetime achievement award from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas. Her most well-known work is the novel <i>Ceremony</i> , in which she draws on her Laguna heritage to tell the story of a WWII veteran returning home from the war to his poverty-stricken reservation.
Southwestern Storytelling	Anaya, Rudolfo	<i>Bless Me, Ultima</i>	Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will test the bonds that tie him to his people, and discover himself in the pagan past, in his father's wisdom, and in his mother's Catholicism. And at each life turn there is Ultima, who delivered Tony into the world-and will nurture the birth of his soul.
Other Available Resources			
Native American	Anthropology Outreach Office - Smithsonian Institution	<i>A Critical Bibliography on North American Indians for K-12</i>	This comprehensive annotated bibliography is available at http://anthropology.si.edu/outreach/Indbibl/bibsw.html . It is focused on information about North American Indians, gives breakdowns as to grade level, and also on geographic area. It's an excellent resource for Native American fiction and non-fiction.